

Introduction

Phoenix Community Care recognises the fact that in certain circumstances individuals may require the right to own a firearm. Specific circumstances refer to farmers and/or rural dwellers that may wish to participate in hunting.

PCC will endeavour, as much as is possible, to make sure that all/any staff, service users, foster carers or LAC owning a firearm are known to PCC and follow the strict legislation surrounding the ownership, storage and use of a firearm in the UK.

PCC Supported Housing

As the safety and well being of our service users is paramount, no service user living in PCC accommodation will be permitted to own a firearm, anyone wishing to do so will be asked to vacate the property.

This is non-negotiable and is non-discriminative.

PCC Foster Care Agency

Although PCC does not support or encourage the ownership of firearms, it does recognise the right of individual foster carers, or their birth children to do so under the strict legislation regarding the ownership, storage and use of firearms.

Foster Carers and Firearms

- At the point of initial assessment of Foster Carer applicants, they must be asked whether they hold or have access to firearms. This is particularly pertinent for foster carers living in rural counties.
- Where applicants confirm that they hold firearms, a current firearm certificate must be seen and a copy placed on file. The assessing Social Worker must see where all guns and ammunition are stored. They must be separately secured in such a way that they could not be accessed by children or young people.
- The Care Managers of children/ young people placed must be made aware that firearms are held by the Foster Carer.
- Foster Carers must not involve children or young people in their care in any use of firearms, including 'beating' on a shoot, without the written permission of their parents and Care Manager.
- As part of the Foster Carer's annual review, the security of arms and ammunition, and the ownership of a current firearms certificate must be verified. Any concerns about the storage, use of firearms, or lack of a certificate must be immediately reported to the Fostering Group Manager and the Practice Manager.
- Assessing / reviewing Social Workers must be confident that applicants / Carers are fully aware of the risks of firearms and use them in a responsible manner. The holding of firearms must be recorded in the Foster assessment report to panel and the Foster Carer review report.

- No child or young person should be placed with applicants where guns are being held in an unsafe way, or where there is no current firearms licence.
- The Police should be notified where applicants are found to have firearms and no certificate.

Ownership of Firearms Health and Safety Check

Name of Foster Carer: _____ Name of gun owner: _____

Type of firearms: _____ Reg. No. _____

Have you seen the certificate? **Yes/No** Enter the date of renewal (5yrs from issue) _____

Is the owner aware of their legal responsibilities? **Yes/NO**

Describe where and how the firearm is stored (this must be seen by the SSW). You must be able to confirm that it is ***'stored securely at all times so as to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, access to the guns by unauthorized persons'***

What is the owner's reason for owning the firearm?

Does the firearms owner understand that PCC has the responsibility to immediately report any ownership of a firearm that is un-certificated to the police? *Stating that 'it is in the post' is not sufficient.* **Yes/No**

Declaration by Foster Carer:

I am willing for the details of my/my child's ownership of a firearm to be revealed to any placing authority that may wish to place a child in my care. I am also willing for checks to be carried out as and when requested by Phoenix Community Care Ltd and / or any placing authority.

Name of foster carer _____

Signature of foster carer _____ Date: _____

It is an offence under Section 21 Firearms Act 1968 as amended, for anyone convicted of a criminal offence, to handle, possess, or shoot a firearm and ammunition (this includes Air Guns). If the sentence was for more than three years the prohibition is for life; if less than three years the prohibition is for five years (note: it is the sentence, not the time served, which is the determining factor).